

**Amendments to the Claims:** This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1                    1 (original): A nucleic acid molecule comprising an aptamer and a  
2 polynucleotide that encodes a transcriptional regulatory polypeptide, wherein binding of a ligand  
3 to the aptamer inhibits translation of the transcriptional regulatory polypeptide.

1                    2 (original): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the ligand is a cell-permeable  
2 small organic molecule.

1                    3 (original): The nucleic acid of claim 2, wherein the ligand is Hoechst dye  
2 33258.

1                    4 (original): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the ligand is a metal ion.

1                    5 (original): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the ligand is an antibiotic.

1                    6 (original): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the ligand is a steroid.

1                    7 (original): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the transcriptional regulatory  
2 polypeptide is a repressor.

1                    8 (original): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the transcriptional regulatory  
2 polypeptide is a transcriptional activator.

1                    9 (previously presented): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the transcriptional  
2 regulatory polypeptide is a coactivator.

1                    10 (original): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the transcriptional regulatory  
2 polypeptide comprises a DNA-binding domain.

1                   11 (original): The nucleic acid of claim 10, wherein the DNA-binding domain is  
2 that of a protein selected from the group consisting of E2F-1, GAL4, a STAT protein, a  
3 steroid/thyroid receptor protein, a Cys2-His2 zinc finger DNA binding motif, and a tetracycline  
4 repressor.

1                   12 (original): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the transcriptional regulatory  
2 polypeptide comprises a transcriptional repressor domain.

1                   13 (original): The nucleic acid of claim 12, wherein the transcriptional repressor  
2 domain is that of a protein selected from the group consisting of Rb protein, v-erbA, retinoic acid  
3 receptor alpha, thyroid hormone receptor alpha, yeast Ssn6/Tup1 protein complex, SIR1, NeP1,  
4 TSF3, SFI, WT1, Oct-2.1, E4BP4, KRAB and ZF5.

1                   14 (original): The nucleic acid of claim 12, wherein the transcriptional repressor  
2 domain is that of p53.

1                   15 (original): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the transcriptional regulatory  
2 polypeptide comprises a transcriptional activation domain.

1                   16 (original): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid is an mRNA  
2 molecule.

1                   17 (currently amended): The nucleic acid of claim 16, wherein the mRNA is  
2 bound to a ligand.

1                   18 (original): An expression cassette that comprises a promoter operably linked  
2 to a polynucleotide from which is transcribed the nucleic acid of claim 1.

1                   19 (original): An expression vector that comprises the expression cassette of  
2 claim 18.

1                   20 (original): The expression vector of claim 19, wherein the expression vector  
2 is a viral vector.

1                   21 (original): The expression vector of claim 20, wherein the viral vector is  
2 selected from the group consisting of an adenoviral vector, a retroviral vector, and an adeno-  
3 associated viral vector.

1                   22 (original): The expression vector of claim 19, wherein the expression vector  
2 is a nonviral vector.

1                   23 (original): The expression vector of claim 19, wherein the expression vector  
2 further comprises a second polynucleotide, wherein transcription of the second polynucleotide is  
3 regulated by the transcriptional regulatory polypeptide.

1                   24 (original): The expression vector of claim 23, wherein the second  
2 polynucleotide encodes a therapeutic polypeptide.

1                   25 (original): The expression vector of claim 23, wherein the second  
2 polynucleotide is operably linked to a binding site for the transcriptional regulatory polypeptide.

1                   26 (currently amended): An isolated cell that comprises the nucleic acid  
2 molecule of claim 1.

1                   27 (original): The cell of claim 26, wherein the cell further comprises a second  
2 polynucleotide, wherein transcription of the second polynucleotide is regulated by the  
3 transcriptional regulatory polypeptide.

1                   28 (original): The cell of claim 27, wherein the second polynucleotide is  
2 included in the nucleic acid.

1                   29 (original): The cell of claim 27, wherein transcription of the second  
2 polynucleotide yields an antisense nucleic acid.

1                   30 (original): The cell of claim 27, wherein the second polynucleotide encodes a  
2 polypeptide.

1                   31 (original): The cell of claim 30, wherein the polypeptide is a therapeutic  
2 polypeptide.

1                   32 (original): The cell of claim 31, wherein the therapeutic polypeptide is  
2 selected from the group consisting of a toxin, a cytokine, a kinase, a phosphatase, a  
3 transcriptional regulatory protein, an antibody, and a tumor suppressor.

1                   33 (original): The cell of claim 32, wherein the polypeptide is a tumor  
2 suppressor.

1                   34 (original): The cell of claim 33, wherein the tumor suppressor is p53.

1                   35 (original): The cell of claim 26, wherein the cell further comprises a ligand  
2 that binds to the aptamer.

1                   36-55 (cancelled).

**Amendments to the Drawings:**

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to FIG. 1. This sheet, which includes FIG. 1A and FIG. 1B, replaces the original sheet of FIG. 1.

In addition, Applicants have attached an annotated sheet showing the changes made to FIG. 1 as originally filed.